

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 3, 2007

Chairman Alfred Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Present: Chairman Smith, Larry Wahl, Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Helen Maldini, Selectmen's Representative Jack O'Reilly, Rick Stern, Cliff Abbott, John Lamson, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Cyndi Gillespie, Library Trustees Dot Noseworthy, Blake Staude, Julie Biron; Road Agent Len Thomas, and Recreation Committee members Keith Frizzell, Pete MacDonald, Chris Bellmare, and Brian Haberstroh.

Chairman Smith spoke of the resignation of member Dennis Acton and encouraged the committee to bring forth names for consideration for replacement.

The minutes of the meeting held September 27, 2006 were tabled until the next meeting.

Library

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the Library budget of \$59,235 with a second from Larry Wahl.

Topics of discussion:

Raises – 2.8% merit was proposed – which is consistent with the Town's C.O.L.A.

Trustee funds used throughout the year – generally 2 to 3 thousand.

Minor building maintenance – building maintenance usually comes under the realm of the Selectmen's budget, however this line is slated for heavy duty cleaning over and above the town's custodian duties.

Reading materials – Mrs. Noseworthy explained that this account was for books, dvds, etc Chairman Smith spoke of a 5 year analysis he did of budgeted amounts vs. spent funds and determined that it may be more inline to increase their request by \$200 based on this history. Trustees funds are also dedicated to funding the summer reading program too. The additional \$200 would be shown under equipment maintenance. *Helen Maldini moved to amend the Library budget to \$59,435 and to accept. John Lamson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Cemetery

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the corrected Cemetery budget of \$ 18,880. Jack O'Reilly seconded.

Topics of discussion:

Stipend increase from \$350 to \$500 which exceeds the C.O.L.A. driven increase as voted by warrant article last year. This stipend has not been increased in quite some time, per Chairman Smith, therefore was adjusted to be more inline.

Contracted services – Stone wall (120' section) has begun which will probably be paid out of the town's capital reserve.

Wages – This line covers Len and John whereas mowing comes out of Contracted Services

Other cemetery sites – Cliff has been trying to maintain them in a basic fashion over the last few years. There are 11 or 12 throughout Newington and excepting the Pickering site, all are the responsibility of the Town. When asked if more funds were needed, Cliff answered no.

Chairman Smith called for the vote – which passed at \$ 18,880 unanimously.

Recreation

Jack O'Reilly moved to accept the Recreation Committee budget of \$ 31,900. Seconded by Gail Klanchesser.

Topics of discussion:

Summer Program – Is very difficult to predict just how much participation we'll encounter however with the planned increased mailings promoting events, the rec committee feels the attendance will be up. (60% / 40% split with town reimbursing the 60%). Camp Gundalow Voucher Program – Is for programs offered in Portsmouth with non-resident level. The Town reimburses the difference between resident costs and non-resident costs to the user. (Not age defined)

Youth Activities – Generally for Easter Egg Hunt plus was added to this year to cover two children's productions – free to Newington children and their families.

Movie Passes – Rec. plans to advertise more.

Equipment Purchases – Tennis balls, etc.

Chairman Smith spoke of the large amounts of unspent funds turned back to the town and felt that unless some of the programs are expanded, their requests are unjustifiable.

The Rec. Committee's main concern was having sufficient funding to care for everyone wishing to participate. Jack O'Reilly stated he would take some of the thoughts back to the Selectmen regarding returning the summer programs back into the town and suggesting either Old Town Hall or consider the vacant house at Fox Point.

Chairman Smith called for the vote which passed at \$ 31,900 7-2 with Misters Smith and Abbott opposing.

Highway

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the amended Highway budget request of \$ 332,400. Gail Pare seconded.

Topics discussed:

Salaries – Funded amount stayed the same.

Road Sweeping – Requested amount dropped over 50%

Surface Maintenance – was for pot holes and patching where as the resurfacing line was for paving projects. Brickyard from Gundalow landing is the big job planned for 2007.

\$ 150,000 for Brickyard, \$30,000 for Coleman and \$ 10,000 for unexpected jobs and overage make up the \$ 190,000 request.

Road Striping - \$ 68 was shown as used but the remainder of the total spent funds were encumbered funds.

Coleman culvert will be around \$ 16,000 and must be done during the 'dry season'. The Selectmen had hoped to begin this project when the flow was down, like in the winter.

Coleman Drainage – This will be discussed at the Selectmen's level

Vehicle Maintenance – is up a bit due to the addition of another vehicle.

Salt line – Is difficult to make the call.

Chairman Smith called for the vote and the motion passed at \$ 332,400 to accept the Highway Budget proposal.

Chairman Smith announced that tonight was Jack O'Reilly's birthday and a cake was brought out. At 9:04, Larry Wahl moved to adjourn. Gail Pare seconded. Motion passed

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi – Administrative Assistant.